

3/12/2013

Brian Kelly
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Dear Public Safety Committee,

In reading the vast majority of the language written in new gun laws being proposed, I firmly object to all of them which burden the law abiding citizen. These new measure do nothing to stop criminals or mentally deranged from owning weapons.

Most noteworthy, bills such as SB 1076 further restrict law-abiding gun owners of the state, while drastically complicating what is and is not allowed. All of the newly added criteria for an "Assault" weapon are ill thought out and concentrate on benign features of a firearm that have nothing to do with safety or preventing gun violence. I challenge anyone to enlighten the public as to how eliminating a forward grip, muzzlebrake or pistol grip on a rifle will save even 1 life. Any of these restrictions clearly will not save a life. And if they would make a gun safer, why then, would it be acceptable for Connecticut Citizens to pawn them off on neighboring states? This proposal seems very questionable at best not to mention the massive negative pressure it puts on the multitude of CT Gun Manufacturers to leave this state. Our tens of thousands of direct and indirect skilled labor jobs would be threatened if SB 1076 came into law. That is clearly not good advertisement for the State of Connecticut.

Furthermore, these complicated new measures will unknowingly turn many thousands of our lawful citizens into instant felons. People who do not follow the onslaught of ever changing restrictive gun laws and especially older people who have legally owned a firearm for decades will now be an unknowing felon, all because of cosmetic features on a gun they legally possessed now being made illegal. The idea of "registering" these guns is completely unacceptable as it is our 2nd Amendment right to own firearms, not a privilege. How is it the role of legislation to tell me what I can defend myself and my family with, along with how many bullets, when it is so clearly written into our Constitution Bill of Rights?

In debating new gun laws, we implore you seek avenues that stop criminals and the mentally deranged from owning guns, not the law-abiding citizens from owning any particular gun with a certain cosmetic feature or "high capacity" magazine. It is your duty to create sensible laws that work and do not infringe upon rights. Enforce the laws already on the books and prevent criminals from owning guns, not law-abiding citizens from having the ability to protect themselves. Bills like SB 1076 and most of the others do absolutely nothing to cut back on gun violence.

Regards,
Brian Kelly
Bristol, CT